

story we have read for a long time. It chronicles the voyage on a raft across the Pacific from South America to Polynesia in an attempt to prove a theory that the South Sea Islands were originally populated from South America.]

*Oryxes caught alive.*

The following is an extract from the *Day Bulletin* of the Arab News Agency dated 15th March 1951.—

'Recently the Emir Saud ben Juluwi was on a hunting trek in the Rab' el Khali, the great desert of Arabia, when his party came across a herd of 36 oryxes, the largest number to be seen together in many years.

With great personal bravery, the Emir's principal hunter captured several oryxes by leaping from a fast-moving car and grabbing the animals by their horns and throwing them to the ground in cow-boy fashion.

Two of the animals which the Emir's hunter captured alive, are now being kept at the Governor's palace in Hofuf.'

*A Cure for Colic?*

Col. O. Vickers in the *Field* of 3 February 1951 writes: 'While serving with General Younghusband's mission in Lhasa some 50 years ago I noticed many mules in the Tibetan and Bhutian caravans on the mountain tracks had only one ear. When one of my transport mules got colic and could not stand up, we gave him up for lost. A Tibetan came up to me and said, "Your mule will not die if you cut off his left ear." We performed the operation and the mule recovered.'

*Gulls on Snow.*

The Science Newsletter No. 6 issued by the Indian Scientific Liaison Officer in the United Kingdom, a copy of which was received by us from the Department of Scientific Research, Government of India, quotes from a report of the Arctic Health Research Centre of the U.S. Public Health Service, Point Barrow, Alaska:

'Gulls can walk indefinitely on snow at—50°C. Measurements were made of the rate of heat loss through the feet of live gulls when placed in iced water. This was so low that it suggests a rate of blood circulation at the rate of only a few cc. per hour.'

*50,000 Year old Lotus Seeds sprout now.*

Science Newsletter No. 17 quotes from the *Times* of 6th March 1951.

'Two lotus seeds estimated by officials of the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior to be 50,000 years old were to-day reported to be sprouting in a moisture chamber where they had been placed for germination tests.

These seeds, originally found in Manchuria by an archaeological expedition were presented to the Park Service last year. They had been kept in a safe until last week when it was decided to make these tests. The surfaces of the seeds were filed to make them more sensitive to water before they were placed in the chamber, where they are now showing green shoots. The age of the seeds has been estimated on the basis of the deposits in which they were found.'